

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SUBJECT	Conditions in Harbin	DATE DISTR.	14 April 1954
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SOURCE:

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1. In mid-October 1953 a military academy to be controlled by the Chinese Communist Army was being built in the Bolshoi Prospekt section of Harbin.¹
2. Some of the changes being made in business in Harbin in October were the following:
 - a. Privately owned Chinese stores and businesses were being nationalized into organizations such as government general stores or government book stores.
 - b. An increasing number of commodities from Shanghai were being displayed in Harbin.
 - c. Chinese were replacing Russians in all except technical positions in Harbin's largest department store, Churin and Company,² which had been turned into a cooperative store.
3. Unemployed White Russians in Harbin could apply for jobs at the Soviet Citizens Association. The only available employment, however, was as laborers in the lumber camps at Shetaohedze,³ a small town on the eastern line of the railroad. Vasili Panov and Lapin (fmu) managed these camps as slave labor camps.
4. In October the movement of White Russians to and from Harbin was to some extent controlled.⁴
 - a. White Russian residents of Harbin did not need a visa to travel within 25 miles of the city. To travel beyond this distance, it was necessary to have a stamped resident's certificate. No fee was prescribed for the stamp, which was valid for one month.
 - b. The Public Security Bureau issued residents' certificates for White Russians in Harbin. The certificates had to be renewed annually. If the holder of a

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certificate failed to renew it within one month after its expiration, he was required to pay a fine of JMP 100,000 or to print an official apology, which cost JMP 50,000, in the newspaper Russkoye Slovo.

- c. Since 1951, civilian residents of Harbin had been permitted to fly between Harbin and Tientsin. A one-way ticket cost JMP 1,000,000.
- 5. Members of the Soviet consular staff in Harbin were not permitted to talk with White Russians on the street. Consular staff members were usually recalled to the USSR after one year's duty.
- 6. Enforced rationing of all basic foods used by White Russians began on 2 November 1953.

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- 1. According to available information from [] a military school for Chinese officers but with an all Russian staff had recently been completed in Harbin.
- 2. According to available information, several recent arrivals from Harbin reported the transfer to the Chinese in August or September 1953 of the former Soviet owned Churin Department Store and associated enterprises.
- 3. [] Comment. This town is probably Shiht'ouhotzu (N 44-51, E 128-42).

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25X1A 4. [] Comment. For additional information on the control of White Russians in Harbin, see []

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